

PRESS RELEASE

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CONYERS: “*ROE V. WADE* IN THE CROSSHAIRS”

Congressman John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee issued the following statement regarding the 30th Anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*.

“As we mark the thirtieth anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, we are faced with a full-frontal assault on this landmark decision that secured for women the right to make private reproductive decisions with their families and doctors – without intervention from the government. The Republicans, who now control both Houses of Congress as well as the Presidency, have boasted that they intend to bring up several bills in the 108th Congress to undermine the right to choose.

The bills on the Republican hit list have been misleadingly labeled to appear moderate and to obscure the fact that, in totality, they would massively undermine *Roe v. Wade*. The list includes the so-called “partial birth” abortion ban act, which outlaws some of the safest and most common abortion methods available to women throughout pregnancy; the “Unborn Victims of Violence Act,” which recognizes embryos and fetuses as the victims of certain federal crimes; and the “Child Custody Protection Act,” which would criminalize grandparents and clergy members who help minors in abusive families obtain an abortion. Make no mistake -- while the Republicans may characterize these proposals as “mainstream,” in reality, these bills are “three strikes” against the core principles of *Roe* and threaten the basic rights that decision secured.

Taken together, these three bills would cut the core out of *Roe v. Wade* and return us to the days of back-alley abortions. The bills tell American women that they can be forced to carry a pregnancy to term, even if their health is irreparably damaged. They tell women that their rights can be diminished by the “rights” of a fetus. And the bills say that if women have the misfortune to live in states with the most restrictions on reproductive rights, those restrictions will follow them wherever they travel.

The Republicans have an arsenal full of ammunition, and they have *Roe v. Wade* in the cross hairs. Now that they control Congress and the Presidency, they intend to make good on the promises they’ve made to the extreme, pro-life wing of their party that is out of step with mainstream America. It’s time that the silent majority -- the two-thirds of the American people that support *Roe v. Wade* -- stands up, before the Republicans eviscerate our cherished constitutional rights.”